

FREE * AIR

OCTOBER 1988

THIBODEAUX PUBLISHING

Memory Lane - The First Year of ACE

by Keith J. Thibodeaux

Six and a half years ago, a new shortwave publication appeared. Named "the MONTHLY A.C.E.", it represented the Association of Clandestine Enthusiasts, which was founded in 1982 by Darren Leno. At that time Darren was dissatisfied with the existing pirate club, the now defunct, Free Radio Campaign (FRC). Since the ACE and its publication have changed so much since that time, it seems an appropriate time to look back and take a trip back to that first year of ACE.

The first ACE bulletin, whose cover is reprinted here, contained nine pirate loggings (Big Boom Radio, WOOF, WOIS, Radio Free Wave, No. Star, WPOT, V. of the Pyramids, V. of the Voyager, and BBI Network), and two clandestine loggings (Quince de Septiembre and Vinceremos) spanning a three month period (12/27/81 - 03/07/82), which were credited to Lani Pettit. There was an interview with Radio Confusion International. Also included were letters from John Moritz, Jr. and Armand Di Filippo, neither of which are currently members. Both letters stated dissatisfaction with the typical U.S. pirate "rock-n-roll and not much else" format. The bulletin was 8 pages in the book format with full size type. All eight pages

would fit on just over a page with our current typesetting techniques.

Newsletter no. 2 marked the appearance of Podney Sixe, who incidentally has been incognito since I resumed publishing. We hope to hear from him soon. It would be a shame to lose his input. Seventeen pirates were logged that month, including Radio Clandestine (sound familiar?).

a shortwave column for six plus years is a feat to be admired by all.

Again, not much changed in issue no. 6. However issue no. 7 debuted the Spies-Numbers column by Lani Pettit and a feature article by John Arthur, whose Veried Response column was to debut in issue no. 8 (Note - VR is expected to appear regularly again, starting with November 88 issue) and the ACE would be in a format that would remain constant for several years. Issue no. 9 was my first issue as a member of ACE, which I had joined after replying to a classified ad in a ham magazine. My first feature article, a review of the Yaesu FRG-7700, appeared one month later.

Also printed that first year was the Media Scan column by Tim Corcoran and several excellent articles by Vince Pinto (neither of whom are currently members). Trivia Question 1 - In what month and year were the asterisks (*) first used between the letters ACE, eg., A*C*E?. Trivia Question 2 - In what month and year was "radio" inserted between the words "clandestine" and "enthusiasts" in the association name.

This concludes our review of the first year of ACE. The hard part of writing this article was seeing the names of so many people who sent in loggings and with whom I have corresponded directly, who are no longer active or even members in the ACE. Seems hard to believe that Kirk Baxter, John Arthur and I have been writing for the ACE for six years. I can't speak for them, but I don't regret a minute of time devoted to the shortwave hobby or to the ACE. Long live the ACE! ...KJT.

vol. 1 iss. 1

the MONTHLY

A.C.E.

ASSOCIATION
OF
CLANDESTINE
ENTHUSIASTS

ANNUAL FEATURES

REPORTS : QSL & STATION

SCHEDULES : TO HELP YOU FIND THE STATIONS
YOU WANT TO HEAR!

classified ads : FREE TO MEMBERS, WE HOPE
YOU'LL FIND YOUR JUNK TO BE
SOMEONE ELSE'S TREASURE.

MAILING-FORWARDING SERVICE : FREE TO ALL OUR
MEMBERS. WRITE
FOR DETAILS.

AWARDS AND CONTESTS : TO BE ANNOUNCED.

EDITORIALS-LETTERS TO THE EDITOR : THIS IS
YOUR BULLITEN AND WE HOPE YOU WILL
FEEL FREE TO VOICE YOUR OPINION ON ANY
SUBJECT PERTAINING TO/NOT PERTAINING TO
FREE RADIO.

printed in U.S.A

COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE-DISTRIBUTED FREE

Not much changed with issue no. 3 and issue no. 4, but issue no. 5 announced a new loggings editor, Kirk Baxter. I guess that makes Mr. Baxter our senior veteran editor. Doing

Note - In future issues, when free space is available, we will reprint some of the better articles that appeared in past issues.

Dialogs

by Kirk Baxter

OCTOBER

Contributions to the loggings column are gratefully accepted by the deadline of the 15th of each month. Loggings are preferred on logging forms which are available for a SASE. Contributions should be sent to: P.O.B. 3436, Peoria, IL 61614. Contributions can also be left on the ANARC BBS at (309) 688-0604, in the ACE message section.

NORTH AMERICA - MEDIUM WAVE

WENJ: 1630, 8/21, 0130-0136*, SIO=212. Jack Beane testing w/ usual oldies segments. Great reception considering it was still daylight. If announced location is correct, stn should be 400-500 miles from me. (YODER,PA)

NORTH AMERICA - SHORT WAVE

Radio Clandestine:

August 29, 1988

7414.5-7414.7, *0205-0319*, SIO=433-545-444. The strangest Radio Clandestine (RC) best I ever heard. R. F. Burns did a show with rock mx and noticeably less humorous skits than in the past, but with a lot of sophomoric and simplistic anti-nuclear war and/or accident preaching. (Who is for nuclear war, anyway?) The programming was mediocre, but what made this best different was the fact that there were at least two different xmtr sites used during the best. During the show, xmtr sites were apparently switched at least three times (carrier left the air, then weaker or stronger signal popped up on a slightly different frequency) carrying RC programming. At 0317 in the middle of a song (Magic Man), the station left the air and came back after a live anncr (not RF Burns) stated several times "turn it back on" - The signal came back for a final ID, then s/off at 0319. After this, there was a 2 way QSO between two different guys doing the voice of RF Burns. One xmtr was strictly AM, but the other RF Burns was on lower sideband. They exchanged coded phrases and anncd the end of network operations. Very wierd and unusual!! (ZELLER,OH) 7415, 0215-0317*, SIO=544. MC was RF Burns. Humorous commercials re: child abuse, nuclear war, electric power. Had poem abt atomic war - had an unfavorable attitude about it. Very good reception at this location. Some horseplay after stn closed down, possibly from other stns. (DECKER,NY) 7415, 0223-0312*, SIO=555. Same "Imagine" best logged in 8/88 ACE. Nice to hear RC finally try some socially constructive pgming, tho show did not have as many funny

promos as before. My first log of RC since 1985. (YODER,PA) 7415, *0312-0316*, SIO=444. RF talked abt stereo bcsting. Xmtr turned off in middle of "Heart" song. Minutes later, the 1st and 2nd xmtrs for the evening QSO'd with messages like "this is a network termination of all bcsts, revert to prior freq" & "Yank my doodle, it's a dandy. Strange! (YODER,PA)

September 3, 1988

7412.8, 0358-0433*, SIO=444. Usual selection of rock mx - 99 Red Balloons played twice. RF Burns' anti-nuclear war speech. ID at 0358 as "Radio Clandestine - reported in Popular Communications, Monitoring Times and A*C*E, the longest running North American Pirate." Ad for Metro Water and Sewer Division, which will disconnect you if you don't pay your bill. Says stn first went on the air in 1973. (ZELLER,OH) 7412.8, 0422-0433*, SIO=333. Rock mx w/ little comedy. (GARRITY,NY)

September 4, 1988

7414.2-7414.8, 0035-0105*, SIO=545. First of what appeared to be 5 separate xmsns. Unusual sounding interval signal followed by "Can you see us, can you see us at all?" This was used several times during the night as an interval signal. Usual clever pgming against "humdrum radio." Played pop mx. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7414, *0042-0158*, SIO=533-544. RC's "whale echo" IS on and off several times. Several speed changes noted and RF Burns coming on occasionally, "Can you see us? Can you see us at all?" Pgm started at 0101. Excellent theme show w/ lots of mx from J. Geils Band, Heart, Elvis Costello, CCR, et al. Ads for "Street People" movie and Assoc. Power Co. Underlying theme of show centered around Nena's "99 Red Balloons" which was played in whole or in part three times. 99 Red Balloons seen as low-flying cluster of radar blips setting off WWII. Some fine fitting poetry from RF Burns and sound FX. "And if ever you should hear this sound (CD siren), the first order of business will be to put your head between your legs... and kiss your ass goodbye..." followed by at least 30 sec of dead carrier. Very engaging and well done. (SMITH,NY) 7414, 0128-0159, SIO=333. RF Burns with rock mx and mostly anti-nuke talk. Signal was readable, but faded in and out. (ROGOVICH,VA) 7414.4, *0042-0158*, SIO=334. RC gone mad! Many carrier interruptions and inexplicable repetition of songs and messages within this pgm. "99 Luftballons", an anti-war song was repeated three times during this show - also the same simplistic anti-nuke commentary read by RF Burns was repeated several times - RC used to be rare, but witty; now it is "easy" and rather dull!! What happened to their sense of humor? (GARRITY,NY) 7415, 0043-0154*, SIO=444. 0043-0100 Synthesized IS. Rock mx and comedy. (SACHS,IL) 7414.7, *0100-0155*, SIO=344. Tested w/ electronic mx IS 0056-0059 on 7415.0. Usual pgm-of rock mx. Read off a list of abt 20 people on stn staff including Wanda Lust,

Boris Fignutsky and Drool the Cabin Boy. Claimed stn was featured on a Miami Vice episode last year and has been mentioned on WRNO. Repeat of 9/3 xmsn in which 99 Red Balloons was played 3 times. (ZELLER,OH) 7414, 0102-0200*, SIO=434. Pgm featured older rock mx such as Heart's "Barracuda." RF Burns had monologue on life without butterflies, dogs, etc. Off in mid-song at 0157, back on for ID, then hit the switch at 0200. (TROMP,MI) 7415, 0112-0155, SIO=4+44+. 2 xmtr sites playing the same old stuff. (CARLSEN,MA) 7415, 0127, SIO=332. Electric power spot. Rock mx-CCR "Bad Moon Rising." 99 Luftballons played twice w/ civil defense warning "Put your head..." Abrupt carrier loss 0155. Back on 0156 w/ "Dreamboat Annie" by Heart. Carrier lost at 0158. (WOLCOTT,NJ) 7414, 0132-0157*, SIO=422-222. Rock & other mx. Talk hard to hear, but did hear "This is RF Burns." (PETTIT,IA) 7414, *0226- 0312*, SIO=444. 2nd xmsn tonight - centered on comedy. Interview w/ ship stowaway Wormer Molester, followed by "Aqualung." Played mx block by Heart and long Frank Zappa song. Spot for "Salesman Repellent." Anncd ZZ Top to come, into ending dialogue and IS. Carrier off 0312. (SMITH,NY) 7414, 0236-0312*. Very good signal. 60 sec test of emergency spaceship. Mx by Tull, Zappa, Heart. (SACHS,IL) 7413.8, *0220-0256*, SIO=322. Usual. (GARRITY,NY) 7415, 0232+, SIO=333. On with "Star Trek" inspired intro - "Ether, the final radio bcst frontier." More rock mx - "Magic Man" and "Heartless" by Heart, tune by Zappa and then douche ad. (WOLCOTT,NJ) 7413, 0238-0312*, SIO=434. 2nd of 5 bcsts tonight. Zappa mx & comic ads. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7414, 0232-0312, SIO=333. RF Burns called this a live brdcast in stereo. Mx from Heart. Comedy and obscene commercials. (ROGOVICH,VA) 7413.8, 0240-0312*, SIO=252+353. Different pgm than at 0100. Mx by Heart, Tull, et al. Said xmsn in stereo. Test of emergency spaceship locator. 3 ads run to pay for Drool the Cabin Boy's beer tab. Stowaway interview. Douche ad. (ZELLER,OH) 7414, 0233-0356*, SIO=545. Better signal than before. Mx & ads as above. Hrd at 0505 w/s/on but very weak. RC was hrd calling R. Garbanzo at 0544. (TROMP,MI) 7414, 0252-0312. Usual material. (ROSS,ONT) 7415, 0300-0355, SIO=4+44+. Two different xmtr sites, one obviously in the NE due to whopping 40+ db signal here in MA, w/ the other not as strong. Same old stuff. (CARLSEN,MA) 7414,

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0319-0354, SIO=444. Considerable increase in signal strength here. Some CW QRM near the end of the broadcast. (ROGOVICH,VA) 7414.0, *0319-0356*, SIO=252+. 3rd xmsn tonight. Rock including Joan Baez. Wanda Lust is engineer. Car ad. "Have you hugged your kids today?" bit. Squeeze jockstrap ad (fur lined). Very well produced. RF Burns wandered about the deck w/ audible wind noise. (ZELLER,OH) 7414, *0320-0356*, SIO=333/433. Featured Joan Baez. "Have you hugged your child today" bit followed by Pat Benatar's "Hell is for Children." At least 2 different xmters were used for all xmsns this night. Xmters were "tail-ending" each other w/ numerous bits of dead air, repeated pgming, carrier dropouts and the like made for fascinating listening. From my QTH, no vast difference in received signal strengths. (SMITH,NY) 7414, *0321-0355*, SIO=444. Best #3. Ended with "Can you see us?" (RICHOLSON,VA) 7414, 0325-0354*. Various comedy bits. "Dust in the Wind" hrd. (SACHS,IL) 7428.4-7428.3, 0452-0455, SIO=322. 4th xmsn. Rock mx (audible), but voice muffled. QRM de R. Greece on 7430, making SSB reception necessary. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7420, 0504-0544, SIO=545. Freq seemed to be shifting about during this broadcast. Talk with Drool the Cabin Boy. Talk of "alternate voice frequency", and "calling Radio Garbanzo" at the end and "Can you see us at all" (ROGOVICH,VA) 7425.1-7424.2, *0500-0543*, SIO=545. 5th and final(?) xmsn. Said stn born in 1973. Ended best 0542 by calling R. Garbanzo, w/ no response. Ended w/ "Can you see us?" etc. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7424.4, 0502-0515. Fair/good signal. Usual rock & ads, likely w/ several xmters. Called R. Garbanzo @ 0542. (ROSS,ONT) 7425v, *0503-0543*, SIO=353. 4th xmsn hrd here. Had 13 separate segments by 2 or more different xmters, all repeating small segments of the 0319 best earlier tonight. Obviously a xmt network. Hrd mention of "alternative voice freq." At QRT, call made for R. Garbanzo. Not clear if this is test of an xmt network or attempt to confuse DFing. (ZELLER,OH) 7425, 0509-0541*. Best fraught w/ numerous problems - carrier dropped at least 10 times. Usual excellent pgming. (SACHS,IL) 7415v, 0514. Medium strength signal w/ professional sound. Signal faded out or lost. Hrd again at 0530 playing "Dreamboat Annie," then again lost or off. 0542 hrd same OM anncr calling R. Garbanzo, then off. (RALEIGH,NV)

September 5, 1988

7415, *0348-0443*, SIO=545. Yet another rebroadcast of many xmters put together. Songs "As Cold As Ice," "Imagine" (interrupted), "99 Red Balloons", etc. Ended w/ "Can you see us?" etc. Hrd back on at 0456 w/ same pgms on 7425 w/ SIO=555. Claimed to be live! No way!! (TROMP,MI) 7414.5, 0351-0445, SIO=444. RF Burns with mx and special guest Steve Martin.

QRM by strong CW at 0440. (ROGOVICH,VA) 7414.4, *0355-0443*. No IS, but started a/ "The Shadow" slogan - "What evil lurks in the hearts of men - Clandestine knows." "Stand by for a best from RC." Repeat of 6-19 xmsn, but without tape screw-ups on Lennon's "Imagine." Ads for child abuse, electric power, and monolithic telephone. Excellent 100% copy. Anncd falsely to be live and in stereo. (ZELLER,OH) 7414, 0410-0540*, SIO=555. Many of the same segments as last week, tho not the same show. Jammed by swishing VFO. Another cool show, but I am about Nena-ed out after hearing "99 Red Balloons" 5 or 6 times in a week from these guys. (YODER,PA) 7424, 0451-0542, SIO=444. RF Burns with very repetitious prgm. Same mx played several times. (ROGOVICH,VA) 7425.1, *0447-0541*, SIO=454+. At least the 7th RC xmsn this week. Repeat of *0100 9/4 best. Fine signal. (ZELLER,OH) 7425, 0507-0540*. Repeat of 9/4 1st best. Signal not as good as 9/4, but had 80% copy. (SACHS,IL) 7425, 0538. Weak signal. Hrd talk abt WWII, nuclear winter, warheads, etc. "99 Red Balloons" by Nina, then "Dreamboat Annie" by Heart. Fade out or end by 0538. (RALEIGH,NV)

Radio Garbanzo: 7417, 9/4, 0401-0450*. News story abt pit bull in N Dakota attacked by a two year-old child and resulting leash law for kids under 5 years old. Excellent signal, but 3/4 of best was extremely overmodulated. (SACHS,IL) 7415, 9/4, 0422-0450, SIO=545. Mx and comedy routines including "shortwave religious service". S/off with bird calls. Excellent programming. (ROGOVICH,VA) 7416.6-7414.8, 9/4, *0405-0450*, SIO=341. Carrier detected at 0405; voice xmsn hrd beginning 0409. Mx and voices could be hrd but generally terrible audio made for zero clarity. Stn ID hrd at 0449. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7416v, 9/4, *0405-0451*, SIO=232-242. S/on w/ sort of a yelping poodle - a miniature version of VofT's howling wolf or Laryngitis' barking seal. Clear R. Garbanzo IDs at 0405, 0409, and 0413 by OM. Various rock mx & some apparent comedy sketches. Modulation horrible and copy generally impossible. Mx tinny and talk badly muffled. QRM de weak but bothersome RTTY right on freq. At 0446 - "Besting to nowhere in particular, we're R. Garbanzo." Yelping dog over jet engine noise at QRT. (ZELLER,OH) 7415v, 9/4, *0405-0450*, SIO=444. Good signal but BAD FMing, made for difficult copy at times. Pgming made it worth the effort! DJ's were Fearless Fred and Harry P. Ness, who hosted a show of rock mx, fake ads and skits. Mx from Guess Who, Mountain, The Who, et al. Jocks complained about having to do the show sober. They tried smoking a McDonald's french fry and WD-40. Long skit of Preacher Irving who talked of the evils of sin, then purged his out along with a BM! Spots included Huey Dewey Lewis and the News record promo, an FCC recruiter skit

and The National Toilet Tabloid. Newscast by Hugh G. Go included story of a pit bull being savagely attacked and killed by a child. Hilarious show, but it's too bad the audio wasn't better. No QSL addr, but PSE QSL. (SMITH,NY) 7416.5-7414.1, 9/4, *0405-0450*, SIO=311. Stn difficult to copy due to xmt problems and RTTY QRM on 7417. Freq had a downward drift and severe FMing noted. Sounded like a xmt w/ very poor power supply regulation and the audio stages were being overdriven to compound the problem. I would "bet the farm" that this best was relayed by the same xmt that carried the 7-3-88 KNBS best - it had the same signal characteristics. Rock mx and comedy bits. (GARRITY,NY) 7417, 9/4, 0409-0450*, SIO=343. Very distorted signal. Not sure if I've ever hrd this pgm before. Fearless Fred sounds so tunnel-like words are hard to make out. Not as strong as Clandestine. (CARLSEN,MA) 7415.3, 9/4, 0417-0437. Very bad audio. Comedy & mx. Off or inaudible at 0437. (ROSS,ONT) 7416, 9/4, 0417-0452*, SIO=444. Special Garbanzo newscast w/ commercials at tune-in. Show featured two OMs playing fast-paced mx that "FM stns used to play." "No top 40 trash." Great signal, but overmodulated at times. (TROMP,MI)

United World Radio: 7414.1, 9/18, 0213-0231*, SIO=343. 4 rock songs including "We are the World," "In the Year 2525," "What's Going On," and "War." Clear IDs by OM at 0215, 0217, 0227 and 0229. Anncd as relay via V. of Free Long Island. Addr anncd via "Tagar" Union Building, Room 258, Stony Brook, NY 11794. On and off (off 0213-0215 and 0220-0226 during period listed), but good modulation. Nice signal except for deep fading. Pgming seemed to be off a tape, but IDs appeared to be live. (ZELLER,OH)

Voice of Tomorrow: 6240, 9/6, 0400-0435*, SIO=545. Professional, highly political best. Stressed "living for eternity, rather than the moment." Contributions (no QSLing mentioned) to P. O. Box 314, Clackamas, Oregon 97015. "Tomorrow Belongs to Me" at 0432, into wolf howl and drum IS at 0434. Off at 0435. Good signal, some CW QRM. (PEARSON,NY)

WFIX: 7444.9-7445, 9/10, 2158-2244*, SIO=434. First of two xmsns on 9/10. Frequent stn IDs such as "You're listening to Fix-it radio." "From Lake Erie on International Waters." "WFIX, where we fix your radio over the air." Anncrs identified as Fix-it Bob and Fix-it Bill. Pgm consisted mostly of IDs and mx. They gave time checks using Eastern time. Interval signal consisted of repeated classical mx phrase. They broke xmsn several times to check if other stns were on their freq. Numbers stns appeared on the freq at 2220 and 2245. Said they might set up a phone line. They wanted reception reports and gave the PopComm Hicksville NY addr. Pretty good for what seemed to be

-- continued page 6, column 3

Newsletter

Volume 5, Number 9
September 1988

August 1988 was a great
heat several

Publication Spotlight

Ever so often, when space is available, I will spotlight another shortwave publication. This month's spotlight focuses on the "Experimental Broadcaster's Newsletter (EBN)." Published by Panaxis Productions, this publication is down-home and high tech at the same time. Physically, the newsletter is the obvious result of a talented person, along with some help from a full-featured desktop publishing program. The newsletter's content maintains a good balance between technical and philosophical topics. As the title implies, this is not a newsletter for the casual shortwave listener and leans more toward broadcasters and techies. It would probably provide interesting reading for broadcasting industry professionals as well, particularly those dissatisfied with the current state of affairs. If you are interested in subscribing or obtaining further information about EBN, write to the following address.

Panaxis Productions
P.O. Box 130
Paradise, CA 95967-0130

Note - The above review is my impression of EBN after reading several issues and does not necessarily represent the views or beliefs of EBN. ...KJT

The phase-locked circuits of today was an RCA FM exciter which was direct-FM modulated. It was kept on frequency by a crystal-controlled sensing circuit which produced an error voltage if the frequency drifted. The error voltage was used to operate a motor which turned a tuning capacitor. The capacitor was part of the direct-FM oscillator thus a drifting frequency would be corrected. This rig was left over from the days when the FM band was at 49 MHz. When the band was changed to 88-108 Mhz they didn't throw away the design - they simply modified the final output stage so it would double the frequency!

Broadcasting from 90,000 feet
More about "Wilson's Folly - Reunion"
Reaching the Shopping Cart Set
Boosters and Power plague commercial stations
Low-power broadcaster goes "big-time"
106.597 kHz to 92.1 MHz in 864 easy steps

Clandestine Profile

By George Zeller

The New, Improved Clandestine Profile Column

Wow! I was very pleasantly stunned when I plucked last month's "Free Air" out of my mailbox. Keith Thibodeaux deserves a deafening round of applause for the first ACE publication that is completely typeset using desktop publishing software. We're right in the forefront of what clearly must be the long run future for all ANARC club bulletins. Free Air looks sharp! Furthermore, the bulletin was chock full of useful information, loggings and timely commentary. There is no letup in the trend this month - we have a lot of good material on clandestine radio. So, let's get right into it.

Clandestine Radio in Nicaragua

One of the most interesting articles that I have seen on clandestine radio in a long time was in the September 1988 issue of *Monitoring Times*. George Wood, the well-known host of Sweden Calling DX-ers on Radio Sweden, wrote an excellent analysis of the current radio scene in Nicaragua (along with co-writer Hermod Pedersen). The article discusses radio journalism and listener ratings at the various legitimate, clandestine, and quasi-clandestine stations that currently broadcast programming specifically produced for listeners in Nicaragua. I highly recommend this article to any of you who might have missed it. A few of Wood and Pedersen's significant points that are of interest to us are worthy of note.

- * Radio Quince de Septiembre's transmitter in allegedly location outside of the city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras at a site that also has been used to store CIA weapons. (Christopher Dickey of the *Washington Post* is cited as the source for this information).

- * Quince has had at least three lives. Its first era ended when their first station manager embezzled considerable cash and transmitting equipment, including essential tubes that the transmitter needed to operate. The second era, overseen by station manager Noel Ortiz (who replace the tubes out of his own pocket), lasted until shortly after Radio Liberacion went on the air. The third era, unmentioned in Wood's article, has been defined by the current semi-merger between Quince and Radio Liberacion on shortwave. Wood says that Quince has little credibility or audience among the general public in Nicaragua.

- * The licensed Radio Impacto in Costa Rica has excellent listener ratings in Nicaragua. Personnel at La Voz de Nicaragua and other legitimate licensed stations in Nicaragua admit that Impacto's professional news operation creates a highly competitive situation among the local broadcasters. Impacto has well-known (although murky) links with the Contras and the CIA, and it runs heavy doses of pro-Contra programming. (It has returned to 5030 khz as of mid-September after its summer experiments on 10005 and 10060 khz).

Wood also makes a few claims in his article that I find to be curious at best. I have never heard the 0200 UTC English news on Quince that he mentions. He also list current schedules for La Voz de la Uno (sic), Radio Miskut, and Radio Monimbo on shortwave, although I have seen no DX reports on any of these stations for over a year. Does anybody have any clarifying information on these points?

The longstanding Quince frequency of 6214.4 khz has been totally inaudible here in Cleveland for a couple of months. I don't even hear a carrier here anymore. Perhaps it has been run off of the channel by Radio Caroline on 6215 khz. Have any of you been hearing them down slightly below the 49 meter band lately?

Saul Chernos of Ontario checks in with copies of a couple of interesting public relations pamphlets and posters that he obtained from the El Salvador Information Centre at 2 Bloor Street W., Suite 100, Box 197, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3E2, Canada. Thanks, Saul! One large poster asks for donations to the "Radio Farabundo Marti Fund" as an "Act of Solidarity with the Salvadorean People" in both English and French. Aside from cash, they are looking for various supplies that include the following: "Walkie Talkie and Central Transmitter," "Short Wave Radio 9 Bands," "Sony Tape Recorder TC-D5M," "Electro Voice Microphone," and "Earphones." The "9 Band" radio request is puzzling. Most inexpensive multi-band analog portables cover only the major SWBC bands, and would not pick up the FMLN clandestine stations or its tactical communications. I also wonder if they would settle for some other brand/model of "tape/model of "tape recorder" or "microphone" in a pinch.

The Centre also offers rental films (in VHS and Beta) for \$35 Canadian. Those of you near the Toronto area might be curious enough to visit their headquarters sometime. Their materials indicate that the Centre is open from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM local time on weekdays, and on weekends by appointment. The FMLN certainly has an elaborate public relations apparatus. I occasionally hear some of their programming on local Cleveland college FM stations.

Radio Venceremos remain active virtually every nights on 3480v // 6580v khz, highly variable in both cases to avoid sometimes intermittent jamming. They still change frequencies frequently in mid-broadcast, as they have done for years. Radio Farabundo Marti is reported much less frequently. The most recent shortwave schedule for it that I have puts them at a variable frequency range somewhere around 6700 - 6750 khz at 2300 UTC. Be careful that you do not confuse Venceremos and Farabundo Marti. Both stations mention Farabundo Marti frequently (which is part of the Spanish pronunciation of FMLN), but Venceremos also adds frequent IDs for itself.

Voice of Tomorrow Maildrop

This clandestine and/or pirate station seems to have been inactive this month. However, ACE member Mark Pierce of California has uncovered some interesting information on the QSL maildrop. Their current maildrop (P.O. Box 314, Clackamas, Oregon) is also the address of The Patriot Review, a monthly tabloid published by the Christian Patriot Association. Mark says that he saw the Review described in "B. Corbett's Spectrum" as a "monthly tabloid; articles on pro-se litigation, tax protest, and general conservative interests; also health essays and recipes."

This is curious. Mark hopes to find out more data on this group and its P.O. Box in the near future. Does anybody else know anything about this?

PLO Clandestine Destroyed

ACE member James Kline of California found an article in the August 10, 1988 edition of the *Christian Science Monitor* on the destruction of a Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) clandestine station. On August 9, Israeli bombers hit "a PLO-run station near the southern port city of Sidon (Lebanon), knocking it off the air." The casualty toll from the air attack was reported by local police as three dead and twelve wounded. The station was identified by "an Israeli army spokesman in Jerusalem" as the Voice of Palestine Radio. The spokesman claimed that this station had gone on the air in June 1988 for "propaganda and incitement broadcasts" directly to "Palestinians in Arab occupied territories."

Gerry Dexter also mentioned this incident in the August 1988 issue of his *Clandestine Confidential* newsletter. Gerry's sources said that the station was (formerly!) located in the hills above Mich Mich slightly south of Sidon, that it had begun testing in July, and that observers have speculated that Yasir Arafat had started the station to draw listeners away from the rival "Ad-Quds" station mentioned by Andrew O'Brien in last

month's "Free Air." I have seen no reports of any shortwave services from this newly defunct station.

Voice of Unity

Bob Ross of Ontario, one of our veteran regular clandestine chasers, has contributed another interesting logging this month. On September 3 he picked up the anti-Afghan government "Voice of Unity" station from 1511 - 1518 UTC on 15685 khz. Their carrier came on at 1511, followed by their distinctive flute interval signal at 1514. After a quick sign on announcement, Bob lost copy because of heavy and effective jamming. With the ongoing Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan in progress, this will be a good station for us to keep our eyes on. I still have curiosity about this one because of its unexplained S9+ relay in the 40 meter pirate band three years ago.

Information Please?

Chasing down information on clandestine stations is always a challenging task. As we saw again this month, good data can often be found in general circulation newspapers and magazines if we keep our eyes open. Aside from "Free Air's" coverage of clandestine radio, many ACE members will probably also want to follow the other major North American information resources on clandestine radio. Every once in a while, it is a good idea to review these for newcomers to the hobby.

Gerry Dexter's bimonthly Clandestine Confidential newsletter is available from him at R.R. 4, Box 110, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 53147. He also writes a monthly clandestine column in Popular Communications magazine. Dr. John Santosuosso, another veteran clandestine DX'er with a lot of Central American connections from his Florida QTH, handles the clandestine (and pirate) column in Monitoring Times. Glenn Hauser's RIB and DXLD, although rather expensive, are often very fine sources for clandestine details. Information on all of Glenn's publication is available from him for a SASE at his usual address of Box 1684, Enid, Oklahoma 73702. Last, but most importantly, we always need clandestine station loggings and information for direct distribution to ACE members. These should be sent direct to George Zeller, 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111

Many Thanks

We had another good turnout this month for the Clandestine Profile column. Our World Correspondent, globe-trotting Andrew O'Brien checked in briefly from Africa on his way to India. We hope to hear from him again later this year. Many thanks

go to direct contributors Saul Chernos (Ontario), Bob Ross (Ontario), James Kline (California), and Mark Pierce (California). I had to write the column a week early this time because of upcoming business trips, so if your stuff is not mentioned here, look for it next month. We all benefit from your input to ACE, and I hope to hear from many of you again next month!

The following message was copied from the ANARC (ACE) BBS

Msg#:17393

Subject: FREE RADIO

09/23/88 12:36:09 (Read 7 Times)

From: KIRK BAXTER

To: ALL

Subj: RNI REPORT

ASSOCIATED PRESS 9/12/88, 6 P.M.
E.D.T. PIRATE STATION-LONG ISLAND, N.Y.-NOTE Sarah, the freighter that housed the pirate radio station that made radio waves last summer is back anchored off Long Island, awaiting Court approval to rock and roll. The station's Operations Manager, 31 year old Randi Steele of Queens, says that "The station is establishing it's Maritime right to be there." The pirates call their station Radio New York International, or RNI. The 170 foot ship had been in Boston Harbor until it was towed back to Long Island's South Shore, where it is anchored 4 1/2 miles south of Long Beach. Steele says that "The station is ready to be fired up at a moment's notice", but Steele has promised not to go back on the air until he has cleared all legal hassles, perhaps in a month or two. "But if no judicial relief is forthcoming," says Steele, "we are prepared to stay at sea all winter." Station officials ran a classified advertisement recently, requesting help from people interested in hard work, and willing to live at sea. Steele works full time as a Producer at a New York City radio station. The pirate station was knocked off the air last summer by the Federal Communications Commission, but Steele argued that the ship was beyond the three mile territorial limit of the United States, and therefore not bound by F.C.C. regulations. The station broadcast briefly on -More- 1620 kilohertz on the A.M. Band, on 103.1 megahertz F.M., and on 6240 kilohertz on shortwave. Steele contends that 1620 kilohertz is a clear channel because the F.C.C. does not license stations on frequencies above 1600 kilohertz on the dial. END OF ITEM

**It's Halloween
Well, Almost**

Dialogs - cont.

their first pirate best. PSE QSL either to my Arlington addr or via Hilo. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7445 & 7415, 9/10, 2204-2308*, SIO=434. OM playing a wide variety of mx w/ lengthy discussion abt interval signals. Dropped carrier to check QRM. Claimed QTH on Lake Erie, just N of Penn. Audio slightly distorted & overmodulated. Mentioned they would be on 2 mhz abt 8pm EST, but I never hrd them. Great to hear something new. (TROMP,MI) 7445-7415, 9/10, 2223-2306*, SIO=555. At first played a wierd collage of audio pieces, so I thought it might be R. Dead Man. Lots of IDs, spelling out their name. Played Little Feat Live and commercial abt log cabins. Said to send rpts to Pop Comm. (YODER,PA) 7414.9-7415.5, 9/10, 2248-2307*, SIO=434. Second and final xmsn. Similar to 2158 best. Played tape abt history and value of log cabins as part of America's heritage. Anned upcoming "2 meg" best, but not hrd. On leaving the air, they wished listeners "73s." Final words: "Have a Good Evening." PSE QSL. (RICHOLSON,VA) 7415.4, 9/10, 2254-2307*, SIO=434. A new stn for me. Various rock mx. Audio was crisp w/ communications quality, suggesting perhaps a ham-type xmttr w/ rolled-off low and high audio frequency response. Good signal w/ some QSB and SS SSB at times. Rpts to PopComm, but no mention of QSL cards. At 2306, Bob had an emergency annemt that stn would be shutting down and returning in an hour on or around 2mhz, but not hrd here. He also mentioned "Ohio stns and Northern Michigan stns" - a code perhaps? Interesting, but some work needed on production values. (GARRITY,NY) 7415, 9/10, 2305-2307*, SIO=455. Caught sign-off annemts w/ reports to PopComm. Wish I had been ready with a tape - they caught me off guard. (CARLSEN,MA)

Unidentified: 3875, 8/21, 0524-0529+, SIO=211. Elevator organ mx buried under QRM. First time I've ever hrd anything on this freq when not near a holiday. (YODER,PA)

ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD

Radio Caroline: 6215, 9/4, 0205-0230+, SIO=242+. Cat Stevens and other rock mx as usual. YL DJ. Still has unstable, warbling carrier w/ low hum that makes ECSS unpleasant - better in AM. Ran ad for Canadian Tourism Contest - I don't remember them having ads before on SW. ID as "Caroline 558" at 0226. (ZELLER,OH) 6215, 9/10, 0009-0102, SIO=534 and 2155-2355, SIO=212. 9/11, 0007-0114, SIO=322 and 0155-0355, SIO=434. Rock mx and IDs. (RICHOLSON,VA)

Voice of Unity: 15685, 9/3, 1511-1518. Fair signal from this anti-Afghan clandestine. Lang: Pushto/Dari. Flute IS at 1514. OM talk was immediately jammed @ 1515. (ROSS,ONT)

Harry L. Helms
7445 Andasol St.
San Diego, CA 92126

COVERT CORNER

So what's a "Covert Corner"? And why am I editing it? While Keith says I can use another name for this column if I want, I'll stay with "Covert Corner" (abbreviate it "CC"). The dictionary defines "covert" as something that's not openly shown, engaged in, and avowed, or, more simply, something that's covered-up or concealed from general knowledge. Radio activities fitting that description will be the subject of this column, making "Covert Corner" a very appropriate title. (Actually, I'd like a title such as "Killer Bees Attack Arnold Schwarzenegger / Film At Eleven" a lot better, but it wouldn't have much to do with the content of this column.)

What is "covert radio"? It includes number stations, of course, along with communications networks used by smugglers and insurgent/guerilla groups. Covert radio is also embassy communications and our Department of State's beloved "KKN" stations. And it includes all manner of radio signals--such as ionospheric "sounders," unidentified beacons, unknown markers, etc.--that cannot be readily identified and don't fit into established categories of utility communications. In fact, one churlish way to describe covert radio would be as those types of signals that conventional, "mainstream" SWL clubs ignore in their utility DX columns. A couple of well-known DX clubs make no secret of the fact that such topics are strictly verboten in their utility columns, with the result being there's been a real shortage of information about covert radio and no medium for rapidly sharing loggings, discoveries, and speculation on the subject. Hopefully, this column will remedy this situation. (Hey, don't get me wrong....I'm not putting down the clubs that exclude covert radio from their pages. I mean, they do cover CW markers, time signal stations, and SSB aircraft and ship traffic. How much more excitement could you take in a single month???)

Some of you may know me from the books on SWLing I've written for Tab and Prentice-Hall, or through the "Communications Confidential" column I edited for Popular Communications in 1982 to 1984. Others might know me through my fourteen books on computing and electronics for McGraw-Hill, Prentice-Hall, and Howard Sams, including titles such as "The McGraw-Hill Computer Handbook," "Computer Language Reference Guide," "Electronics Applications Sourcebook," and "Handbook of

Radio Communications Servicing and Maintenance." I've been an electronics book editor for McGraw-Hill and Prentice-Hall, and am currently a senior editor for professional and technical books with Harcourt Brace Jovanovich in San Diego. I've also been a technical writer and editor at Radio Shack's Fort Worth headquarters, where I wrote the DX-302 manual. In addition to SWLing and computing, I'm also involved in ham radio (AA6FW), astronomy, scuba diving, and breeding dogs. I just turned 36 and don't like getting old one damn bit.

The success or failure of this column is going to depend upon the input and participation of the ACE membership. All input, such as loggings and your comments, is most welcome. I may be unable to use all submissions due to space limitations, but everything will be appreciated. I also don't have the time to engage in extensive correspondence or become everyone's pen pal (time pressures were why I gave up the Popular Communications gig), but I'll try to answer all letters needing (and deserving) an answer. Finally, I encourage all ACE members to share their material for CC with the "Communications Confidential" and "Outer Limits" columns in Popular Communications and Monitoring Times. Researching and identifying covert activity is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. The more we share and circulate information widely, the sooner we'll arrive at some answers.

Now that we're acquainted, let's get rolling.

* * *

Since I resumed DXing seriously late last year, I've run across some stations I call "tickers," "beepers," or "pulsers." For example, I've logged a station on 9061.5 around 0708 that transmitted a "tick" each second, much like that from a watch or clock. This was in the AM mode, and there was no longer "tick" or other indication of the minute. The ticks themselves were in perfect step with WWV, however.

Or take a station I've heard on 6504.5 around 0530. This transmitted tone pulses at the rate of approximately 50 per second (they slightly lagged WWV). Again, the mode was AM and the signals were exceptionally strong here in San Diego.

I suspect someone's using these signals as a marker of some sort. I nabbed one station on 9231.4 at 0614 with a series of dashes at a rate of one per second; it sounded a bit like a stuck keyer. Abruptly at 0615, the station sent a series of rapid data bursts for about twenty seconds and then resumed the dashes.

Some of you out there must be hearing similar things. Let me hear from you!

* * *

Attention ACE members from Texas to

southern California: Tune to 4895-4890 around 1500 on weekends. Are you hearing what I'm hearing?

* * *

Frankly, I wasn't too surprised by the recent "news" that a four-digit numbers station transmitter was located near Miami. I wrote about the strong evidence for this in my 1987 "Shortwave Listening Handbook" and also in my 1981 "The SWL's Manual of Non-Broadcast Stations." A few years ago I got into a good and angry telephone argument with the Connecticut mathematics professor who definitely tracked down the Warrenton site. At that time (1984), he felt that Warrenton was the only site used for four-digit transmissions. I disagreed, feeling that propagational factors alone would call for multiple sites.

I still feel we're a long way from knowing most sites used domestically by numbers stations. I'm certain there must be a West Coast location, since I've observed from my ham operating that there are times when we have the "pipeline" into Central America and the East Coast doesn't. Another possibility that has long fascinated me is Ohio. Yes, Ohio.

This is no joke. In the late 1970s, several Ohio SWLs reported powerful, almost-spacewave quality signals from numbers stations. Some of the most reliable reports came from the greater Cincinnati area. Ohio is also crawling with all sorts of government and military radio facilities that could be used for numbers transmissions.

How about it, Buckeyes? Am I on to something or just getting senile?

* * *

Information useful to those interested in the subjects covered by CC can pop up in all sorts of places. Take the September issue of "QST," for example. On page 29, there's an article by Dr. O. G. Villard titled "The Coplanar-Twin-Loop Antenna." This describes an indoor HF receiving loop offering a unidirectional null with a rejection of up to 20 dB--a very useful tool for tracking the locations of covert transmitters. And there's a terrific new book out by David Wise titled "The Spy Who Got Away" (Random House). It's the story of Edward Lee Howard, who made history of sorts in 1985 by becoming the first CIA agent to defect to the KGB. On page 65, you can read how Howard and others were trained by the CIA to receive messages by radio using the one-time pad method. Much of the information is well-known to numbers stations buffs, but there is one interesting tidbit. It seems that Howard and his classmates were trained to receive and decode CIA messages transmitted in five-digit (not four-digit!) groups.

Is this important new information? Disinformation? Or just misinformation?

* * *

That's it for this initial outing. I was going to write more, but it's been pointed out to me that I don't have a cool nom du DX like that "Havana Moon" guy has. So, in addition to your loggings and comments, could you folks submit possible DX pseudonyms I could use? Not only would a good "handle" give me that highly desired aura of mystery, but it would let me avoid taking full personal responsibility for my opinions. This is no joke. And you might want to think of a pseudonym for yourself, so you can also be cool in DXing circles. (Sorry, "Stanbury X" was taken long ago....) Maybe if enough of us start using pseudonyms, we could form an elite, invitation-only DX club called "Nombre Desconocido" (ND) and have lots of fun pretending we're all people other than our ordinary, boring selves! Anyone interested?

See you next month!

Halloween Pirates?

Will their be any pirates trick or treating this October?

Halloween has always be a favorite time for pirate DXers, and I suspect for pirates too. Not only does pirate activity usually increase, it gets a little strange as well.

The pirates heard around Halloween are, well, let's say a little different. My favorite, The Voice of the Purple Pumpkin (VoPP), seems to resurrect more than Jason and Freddy put together. Although supposedly busted several times, every few years the station reappears, normally around October. Other weird stations that have popped up in the past include WBST (beast), Munchkin Radio (their QSL is on the next page), and WSWL (also ID'd as VoPP.)

Although no Halloween pirates were logged last year, activity in general was very low at that time. If you zero beat on the sound of barking dogs during October, stop, you may hear a one-time Halloween pirate or the return of a mysterious oldie. ...KJT

The following article on The Voice of the Purple Pumpkin was written by Terry Provance in 1983. Since this station has been known to reappear after years of absence on the bands, it might prove interesting reading. Note - Terry probably has one of the most unusual pirate verification cards ever received by a DXer. It was issued by the FCC.

Will The Real Purple Pumpkin Please Stand Up?

by Terry Provance

On Monday, July 27, 1970, at a little past 1800 GMT, I had my first encounter with pirate radio. I was scanning the bands with my 20-transistor Ross RE-2020 portable receiver attached to a 75-foot longwire when I stumbled upon a very unusual broadcast right below CHU's 7335 khz time signals.

Amidst the enormous summertime static I heard late 60's rock and folk music with Sgt. Pepper and Lovely Rita from the Beatles album and counter-culture slogans such as "broadcasting to stop the spread of capitalism." There was mention of studios being in Hanoi and they gave a location of "Anywhere, USA." There was also mention of a transmission on "8.1 on the shortwave band." The broadcast ended with the opening bars of Beethoven's 5th symphony and mention of "The Purple Pumpkin" and again Sgt. Pepper's was played beginning with the lyrics "...We're sorry but its time to go..." Two sets of call letters were used; WJMS and WCKL. This was a broadcast from "The Voice of the Purple Pumpkin."

The next day at 1800 GMT I tuned to this frequency to again hear the same type of broadcast for the next half hour. This broadcast included a somewhat risque comedy skit about a typical establishment husband and wife in bed. Both husband and wife were played by male (the wife had a high-pitched male voice.) Also the only DJs heard on these broadcast were male.

Back in 1970 I was not an experienced DXer with a tape recorder as part of my listening post. But, my parents reel to reel just happened to be handy so connected the microphone and recorded unfortunately no more than five to ten minutes of the broadcast. My first recorded DX! In this recording I noted the station giving a location as Greenbelt, USA, and the typical Beethoven's 5th/Sgt. Pepper's sign-off. I let the recorder run past sign-off and heard to my surprise what sounded like the DJ with a program announcement coupled with mention of no broadcast tomorrow "due to an unfortunate mishap which

occurred yesterday." For several weeks, I scanned the bands daily in search of the Purple Pumpkin with tape recorder prepared but I never heard it again.

Unfortunately, I did not join a DX club until several years later, so I knew of no one who had heard this station. Out of curiosity, I wrote to the FCC in 1974 and to my surprise, Vernon P. Wilson, Acting Chief, Enforcement Division at the DC headquarters replied by letter dated July 31, 1974. In it he acknowledged that the FCC was aware of the Voice of the Purple Pumpkin and even went so far as to say, "I hope the above (letter) will suffice as verification for your reception report."

In mid-October, 1982, I sent some info on my reception of VoPP to the ACE Librarian. In early November, when calling (phone-loop) WART's Crystal Goblin, VoPP came up in the conversation. Mr. Goblin had knowledge that VoPP resurrects every Halloween and that he had heard their broadcast this past Halloween eve. I've also noted the loggings of this station in December's ACE. I have not heard the new signals myself, but the loggings of late 60's music and "live from downtown you-know-where" are fairly similar to the broadcast I heard twelve years ago. There were no barking dog, however, when I heard them. Of course, after 12 years a change in programming can be understood.

Is it really true? Has the station that introduced me to free radio 12 years ago returned to the airwaves? I am suspicious. I find it more than coincidental that the station has only recently been reported -- after I submitted my 1970 loggings to the ACE library. Why has the sign-off been changed from Beethoven's 5th to barking dogs? The original pirate would be in his early to mid thirties today. The station I heard had a strong counter-culture flavor to its programming. Perhaps an aspiring pirate picked up on my contribution to the ACE library and decided to use the name. On the other hand, maybe the real Purple Pumpkin is still out there and is a member of ACE!!! After all, I'm soon to be thirty and am just as excited about hearing a new pirate as I was 12 years ago. Why should a pirate broadcaster be any different. As the flower child movement wilted long ago, you wouldn't expect the same type of programming from a resurrected Pumpkin....or would you?

Antennae and Earths

by John T. Arthur

The most important part of any antenna system is the Earth connection; the "ground." A good ground can pass a lot of atmospheric noise (static) by your receiver, permitting you to hear weak signals instead.

Most folk make do with a piece of #22 wire twisted around a cold water pipe. In the old days this was adequate, although it did create a high-resistance connection and reduce the effectiveness of the ground connection. But advances in building techniques necessitate change. Newer buildings use plastic pipe (PVC) which provides no connection at all. Since most of us cannot afford to re-build our homes to benefit our hobby, an alternative must be found.

One possibility is a four-foot copper rod sold by Radio Shack. It's a bit short for the purpose but it is copper (the best metal for the purpose) -- maybe two or three of them will work. Otherwise find yourself a piece of metal pipe or rod (forming stakes from a construction site work well) that is six to eight feet long and drill a hole through one end.

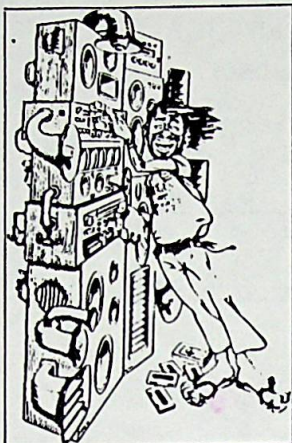
Make sure you have a bolt that will fit the hole you drill! Then pound the rod into the soil, leaving yourself access to the bolt. Position the ground rod AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE to your shack to keep the wire length short and resistance low.

The next step is to determine how much wire you'll need to connect from the rod to

NOTE: Connect ALL of your equipment to the ground wire! Solder all possible connections.

If your interest is all on one band you should consider a few ground radials. To make radials, determine (from formula) one wavelength for your particular frequency or band and cut a piece of insulated wire that length. Connect one end to your ground-rod and string out the wire on the ground. It doesn't have to be in one straight line...it can be coiled up and dropped behind your operating position if space is a problem. CAUTION: tape the exposed (loose) end(s) to prevent the possibility of shock if transmitting.

Ground radials can be paralleled. I had 12 radials in Potter Valley -- four cut for one band and eight cut for other bands I was interested in. Properly cut and installed radials (along with a good ground rod and connection) can help reduce your local noise level and provide a better match to your antenna system -- something of prime importance to stations operating with QRP (very low) power.



...THE ONLY
FREE RADIO STATION:
KIWI RADIO

Q.S.L.

Dear Keith J. Thibodeau
Thank you for your Reception Report
dated 12.6.84 for the
broadcast on 10.6.84 on the
frequency of 7430/7412 at the time
of 0341-0409 GMT/UTC
We hope you will tune in again in the near
future.

73's *Ch. J. B.*
P.O. BOX 1437 — HASTINGS, N.Z.

TRIPLE - F - MUSIC

your equipment -- allow yourself about five feet (two meters) for error and neatness. Visit an electrical wholesaler or contractor and acquire a piece of large wire. For runs of up to 50 feet I would recommend a 3/0 wire size -- that's about a half-inch in diameter. Connect one end to your new ground-rod and feed the rest into your shack and connect it to your equipment.

can help reduce your local noise level and provide a better match to your antenna system -- something of prime importance to stations operating with QRP (very low) power.

MUNGER KIN RADIO

to: Keith Thibodeau

date: 11-28-82

time: 0402-0409

freq: 7430



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What is the ACE?

Although considered an association (or club) by nature, the ACE's primary existence is centered around its monthly newsletter, formerly titled "The A*C*E", and recently renamed "Free Air." *Free Air's* format revolves around the reporting of pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained and/or unlicensed broadcast and printing other available material concerning motives, explanations, theories, and other information pertaining to these mysterious broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity, but simply

seeks to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts as a way of furthering our enjoyment of the radio listening hobby. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts, and covert communications, ACE's publication *Free Air* is of interest to you.

Pirates: *Free Air* is famous for its thorough coverage of this subject with both loggings and inside information from reliable sources. We strive

Verled Response: Six year veteran John Arthur, well known in the hobby for being outspoken and sometimes argumentative, provides editorials along with reader response, and QSL response reports from members. John also provides what is probably the only source of QSL information for US pirate stations with "The Directory" which is published quarterly in *Free Air*.

Clandestine Confidential: Defined as unlicensed transmissions containing messages aimed at achieving social and/or political change, and generally not in English, clandestine broadcast can provide some of the most challenging and rewarding DX. George Zeller has established himself as one of the experts in this field. His monthly column provides commentary, insight and most importantly, hard to get answers to many of the questions that surface in this area.

Covert Corner: Renowned shortwave author, Harry Helms, covers not only the often unofficially explained "spy numbers" stations, he delves into the entire covert spectrum. From drug runners to criminal communications to spies to unacknowledged military communications, this is the most unpredictable challenge in DXing. Harry also adds his own brand of commentary on a variety of subjects.

ACE Annual Membership Dues (includes one year subscription to Free Air - an ACE publication)

United States and possessions.....	\$15.00
Canada.....	\$18.00
World Air Mail.....	\$20.00

to provide you with information which helps you hear the often interesting, outspoken and satirical programming these stations offer. Our pirate loggings editor, six year veteran Kirk Baxter, brings loggings and comments to our readers each month.

The Association of Clandestine
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